

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Broadcast Service

FCC RM-9242

Comments of William Richard Morrison

I have read the rulemaking petition and am in agreement with what was proposed. There is an aspect of this proposal which I would like to elaborate on. The section I am referring to is VII, paragraph 67 which states "Create a large number of locally owned radio stations that, on the whole, will be more responsive to the needs and issues of the local communities".

My appointed position in San Juan County, Washington State is Emergency Coordinator of Emergency Communications. In this position I see the need for local communications with the general population. In the event of a National or local emergency the individual cities and towns must deal with that emergency until Federal or State help arrives. In the event of a large catastrophe local governments and citizens must take care of them selves, as there will be no help coming. Emergency communications to the general public during that time is crucial. The local LPFM station is in a better position to fulfill the communication needs of the people and local government than the larger AM and FM stations which will be broadcasting the emergency information to their local listeners. As an example, San Juan County is a group of islands located in North Puget Sound. There are no large stations that are located in the islands. Therefore all emergency communications for the people of San Juan County must be phoned to one of the stations on the mainland and then broadcast to the island population. In an emergency the phone lines may or may not be working, so the local emergency officials cannot be sure of being able to get the emergency messages out to the local population. Were there an existing LPFM station, the local people would know to tune to the LPFM station for emergency communications.

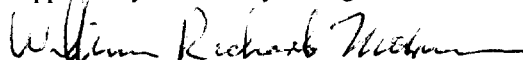
I believe there is a need for the LPFM class license. As the petition says, the day of the community station is all but gone. The need for what a community station provides the community still exists, but the large corporately owned, profit-driven stations are not interested in the individual towns and geographical areas. Their focus is on making money.

Speaking of making money, brings me to the power level issue. I agree with the petitioner on the power levels he has proposed. To be economically viable, the station must cover enough area to have an adequate financial base.

I agree with the "50 mile rule" and the specification of not owning other "primary service" stations. The employment and training opportunities for young people is a real plus in this proposal.

By creating the LPFM class of license it will give the FCC the control of the FM service and help to eliminate the illegal stations that are now broadcasting and inciting and not enlightening.

Thanks for the opportunity to make my feeling known.


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10